GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
PROTEST BY DISABLED RIGHTS GROUP
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disabled Rights Group held a two-day protest demonstration fromAugust 14, 2002 in Delhi to demand tax concessions for working and other disabled persons; ;

(b) if so, the details of their precise demands; and

(c) the Government`s reaction and response to each of their demands?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 78 putforth by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, regarding `Protest by Disabled Rights Group`.

(a) to (c) A letter from Disabled Rights Group (DRG) was received in August, 2002 which, inter-alia, stated that a 48 hour freedom vigil was being organized at Jantar Mantar from 14.8.2002 to 16.8.2002 to protest against the non fulfillmentof the demands put forth to the Government.

The demands cover a wide range of issues such as raising of limit of income tax exemption for disabled persons, no tax on aids & appliances meant for disabled persons, private sector incentives to promote employment, shifting office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD) from NOIDA to Delhi, affacilities/ concessions given to persons with orthopaedic, visual and hearing disabled to be extended to mentally impaired, one per cent reservation for people with mental and/ or developmental disabilities in C & D category of jobs, standardisation of Indian Sign Language, further revision of the recently revisedlist (June, 2001) of identified posts for persons with disabilities, abolishing Office of CCD and constituting a Disability Commission, passage of amendments to Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, shifting `Special Education` from Ministry ofSocial Justice & Empowerment to Ministry of Human Resource Development and passage of an ordinance to ensure barrier free design and access features in all future construction.

The demands relating to legislative, financial and administrative aspects involving various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and the State Governments have been referred to them. The Government has approved the proposal to shift the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities from NOIDA to Delhi. A reply to the representation has been sent to DRG.